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Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 13484 051050Z

51
ACTION OS-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CU-02 AID-05 L-01 CPR-01 A-01

/018 W
---------- 116863
R 050915Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5149
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASCH ID
SUBJ: POSSIBLE CHANGES IN REGULATIONS FOR FOREIGN SCHOOLS IN INDONESIA

1. EMBASSY HAS NOW CLARIFIED DISTURBING REPORT THAT GOI INTENDS REVISE IN ADVERSE WAY JOINT MINISTERIAL DECISION OF MARCH 18, 1974 WHICH GAVE SATISFACTORY STATUS TO JOINT EMBASSY SCHOOL (JES) AND OTHER EMBASSY SCHOOLS IN JAKARTA.

2. AFTER OCTOBER 8 MEETING OF POLITICAL/SECURITY STABILIZATION COUNCIL, HIGH-LEVEL BODY CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT, PRESS ACCOUNTS, THOUGH FAR FROM CLEAR, INDICATED MARCH 18 DECISION WOULD BE REVISED IN SATISFACTORY MANNER. WHEN EMBOFF CALLED AT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF EDUCATION ON OCTOBER 9 TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF DECISION, HOWEVER, HE WAS GIVEN DISTURBING INTERPRETATION OF GOVERNMENT'S PLANS, NAMELY THAT:
A) REVISION OF JOINT MINISTERIAL DECISION WOULD ALLOW CHILDREN OF DIPLOMATS AND OTHER IN INDONESIA AT "INVITATION OF GOI" TO CONTINUE ATTENDING JES (OR OTHER EMBASSY SCHOOLS JAKARTA). CHILDREN OF PERSONS HERE FOR "PROFIT MAKING PURPOSES", HOWEVER, WOULD HAVE TO ATTEND "OTHER SCHOOLS". (PARALLEL SITUATION WOULD APPLY TO
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PAGE 02 JAKART 13484 051050Z

CONSULATE SCHOOLS IN MEDAN AND SURABAYA.); AND

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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B) PURPOSE OF REVISION WOULD BE SO THAT GOI COULD
REGULATE FOREIGN SCHOOLS (OTHER THAN DIPLOMATIC SCHOOLS)
AND "PROTECT OURSELVES AGAINST THE CHINESE".

3. JES CURRENTLY HAS 1,541 STUDENTS FROM 46 COUNTRIES;
ONLY 266 OF THESE ARE CHILDREN OF DIPLOMATS (FROM 20
COUNTRIES). ACCORDINGLY, PROPOSED REVISION, IF CARRIED
OUT ALONG THESE LINES, WOULD CREATE SEVERE PROBLEMS
FOR JES.

4. WHEN AMBASADOR RAISED MATTER WITH HIGHER LEVEL GOI
OFFICIALS (FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK ON OCTOBER 9 AND
HANKAM J-1, GEN MOERDANI ON OCTOBER 15), THEY EXPRESSED
DOUBT MARCH 18 DECISION WOULD BE REVISED IN MANNER
DESCRIBED BY EDUCATION DIRECTORATE GENERAL OFFICIAL. TO
GET DEFINITIVE CLARIFICATION, AMBASSADOR CALLED ON
MINISTER OF STATE SUDHARMONO ON OCTOBER 25 AND WAS
INFORMED: A) GOI DOES NOT INTEND TO INTERPRET OR
REVISE MARCH 18 DECISION SO AS TO EXCLUDE FROM JES (OR
OTHER EMBASSY SCHOOLS) DEPENDENTS OF BUSINESS PERSONNEL;
AND B) GOI CANNOT, HOWEVER, PERMIT SCHOOLS COMPARABLE TO
JES (E.E., TAX-FREE STATUS FOR INSTITUTION AND STAFF,
DUTY-FREE IMPORT RIGHTS) TO EXIST OUTSIDE JAKARTA AND,
AS RESULT, DIFFERENT STATUS WILL HAVE TO BE FOUND FOR
CONSULATE SCHOOLS IN MEDAN AND SURABAYA.

5. WHEN DISCUSSING POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES WITH
SUDHARMONO, AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT WHATEVER ALTERNATIVE
MAY BE DECIDED ON: A) THERE SHOULD BE NO ABRUPT
CHANGE; B) DEPENDENTS OF US AND OTHER CONSULATES SHOULD
BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND SCHOOLS; C) EDUCATION SHOULD BE
OFFERED AT REASONABLE PRICE; AND D) SCHOOLS SHOULD BE
FREE CHOOSE TEACHERS AND SET CURRICULUM SO STUDENTS
QUALIFY FOR ADMISSION TO HIGH SCHOOLS BACK HOME.

6. SUDHARMONO HAS ASKED AMBASSADOR TO SUPPLY HIM WITH
DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE SCHOOLS IN MEDAN AND
SURABAYA, TO INCLUDE NUMBER OF PUPILS IN EACH GRADE,
THEIR NATIONALITY, THEIR PARENTS' AFFILIATION (I.E., COMPANY,
CONSULATE, ETC.) AND GROWTH PROJECTIONS. HE
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ALSO REQUESTED INFORMATION ON OTHER SCHOOLS IN INDONESIA
USED BY AMERICANS AND APROJECTION OF THE LIKELY GROWTH
OF EXPATRIATE COMMUNITIES IN INDONESIA OVER THE NEXT FEW
YEARS. EMBASSY IS ASSEMBLING THIS INFORMATION NOW AND
WILL BE FORWARDING IT TO SUDHARMONO SHORTLY.

7. ON NOVEMBER 4 AMBASSADOR HAD A DISCUSSION WITH
EDUCATION AND CULTURE MINISTER THAJEB ON WIDE RANGE OF

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ISSUES CONCERNING PROBLEMS OF FOREIGN SCHOOLS. THAJEB SAID MARCH 18 DECISION TO BE WITHDRAWN AND NEW DECISION COVERING ALL FOREIGN SCHOOLS TO BE SUBSTITUTED FOR IT. MAJOR POINT OF NEW DECISION WILL BE TO RECOGNIZE AND PERMIT TWO KINDS OF FOREIGN SCHOOLS--EMBASSY SCHOOLS (TO INCLUDE JES) AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS (ALL OTHERS). EMBASSY SCHOOLS WILL BE ALLOWED ONLY IN JAKARTA. OTHER SCHOOLS MUST BE ORGANIZED UNDER A FOUNDATION (YAYASAN) AND RECEIVE AUTHORIZATION OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE, WHICH IS NOW FINALLY ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL SCHOOLS IN INDONESIA (PURSUANT TO AN INSTRUCTION IMPLEMENTING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 34 OF 1974). INFORMATION ON THE NEW PROCEDURES WILL BE CONTAINED IN THE NEW DECISION NOW BEING DEVELOPED. THAJEB SAID THAT THE EMBASSY "AS THE INTERESTED PARTY" WOULD BE CONSULTED ON THE DECISION WHILE IT IS STILL IN DRAFT FORM. THAJEB INDICATED NO CHANGES PLANNED IN JES AND OTHER EMBASSY SCHOOLS BUT THAT THE GOI INTENDS TO RETAIN THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE WHO MAY ATTEND THEM ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT INTEND TO UTILIZE THIS RIGHT TO MAKE ANY CHANGES NOW. (THIS IS PRESUMABLY A WEAPON TO BE HELD IN RESERVE FOR USE AGAINST THE CHINESE, SHOULD THIS BECOME NECESSARY IN THE OPINION OF THE GOI.) AMBASSADOR REPEATED TO THAJEB THE POINTS NOTED IN PARA 5. ABOVE. THAJEB INDICATED HIS AGREEMENT WITH THEM.

8. WITH BOTH SUDHARMONO AND THAJEB, AMBASSADOR MADE PARTICULAR POINT OF ASKING THEIR HELP IN FINDING PROMPT RELIEF FROM TIME-CONSUMING AND EXPENSIVE PROBLEM FACED BY CONSULATE SCHOOL IN MEDAN, NAMELY: BECAUSE OF ATTITUDE OF IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS IN NORTH SUMATRA, TEACHERS AND STAFF WITHOUT STAY PERMITS HAVE HAD TO TRAVEL TO PENANG MONTHLY TO RENEW "TOURIST" VISAS. THOUGH NO COMMITMENTS
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MADE, BOTH MINISTERS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SOLVING PROBLEM.
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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